

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1-17. (canceled)

18. (currently amended): A high activity phytase-containing granulate having increased pelleting stability prepared by extrusion comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a non-fibrous solid carrier comprising at least 15% (w/w) of starch;
  - (b) providing an aqueous liquid comprising a phytase at a concentration of at least 14,000 FTU per gram of aqueous liquid; and
  - (c) mixing the solid carrier and the aqueous liquid to form a granulate having a phytase activity of at least 6000 FTU per gram;
- wherein said granulate is prepared by extrusion.

19. (currently amended): A granulate having a phytase activity of at least 6000 FTU per gram and having increased pelleting stability comprising dried granules formed from an aqueous liquid comprising a phytase at a concentration of at least 14,000 FTU per gram of aqueous liquid and a non-fibrous solid carrier which comprises at least 15% (w/w) of starch and at least one divalent cation.

20. (canceled)

21. (previously presented): The granulate according to claim 19 wherein the granules comprise one or more hydrophobic, gel-forming or water insoluble compound(s).

22. (previously presented): The granulate according to claim 21 wherein the hydrophobic, gel-forming or water insoluble compound comprises a derivatised cellulose, polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) or an edible oil.

23. (previously presented): The granulate according to claim 22 comprising a derivatized cellulose selected from the group consisting of hydroxy- propyl-methyl-cellulose, carboxy-methyl-cellulose and hydroxy-ethyl-cellulose.

24. (previously presented): The granulate according to claim 19 which additionally comprises an endo-xylanase and/or  $\beta$ -glucanase.

25. (canceled)

26. (previously presented): The granulate according to claim 19 wherein the phytase is other than a heat tolerant (thermostable) phytase.

27. (previously presented): The granulate according to claim 19 wherein the phytase is a fungal phytase.

28. (previously presented): The granulate according to claim 19 wherein the fungal phytase is derived from an *Aspergillus* or *Trichoderma* species.

29-30. (canceled)

31. (previously presented): A composition comprising:  
a granulate according to claim 18.

32. (previously presented): The composition according to claim 31 which is an edible feed composition.

33. (previously presented): The composition according to claim 31 which is an animal feed.

34. (previously presented): The composition according to claim 31, wherein said composition comprises pellets that comprise one or more feed substance(s) or ingredient(s) mixed with a granulate that comprises dried granules formed from a phytase and a solid carrier which comprises at least 15% (w/w) of an edible carbohydrate polymer.

35. (previously presented): The composition according to claim 31 which is an animal feed, or a premix or precursor to an animal feed, and is prepared by a process that comprises mixing a phytase-containing granulate with one or more animal feed substance(s) or ingredient(s).

36-40. (canceled)

41. (previously presented): A composition comprising:  
a granulate according to claim 19.

42. (previously presented): The composition according to claim 41 which is an edible feed composition.

43. (previously presented): The composition according to claim 41 which is an animal feed.

44. (previously presented): The composition according to claim 41, wherein said composition comprises pellets that comprise one or more feed substance(s) or ingredient(s)

mixed with a granulate that comprises dried granules formed from a phytase and a solid carrier which comprises at least 15% (w/w) of an edible carbohydrate polymer.

45. (previously presented): The granulate according to claim 18 wherein the granules comprise one or more hydrophobic, gel-forming or water insoluble compound(s).

46. (previously presented): The granulate according to claim 45 wherein the hydrophobic, gel-forming or water insoluble compound comprises a derivatised cellulose, polyvinyl alcohol (PVA) or an edible oil.

47. (previously presented): The granulate according to claim 46 comprising a derivatized cellulose selected from the group consisting of hydroxy- propyl-methyl-cellulose, carboxy-methyl-cellulose and hydroxy-ethyl-cellulose.

48. (previously presented): The granulate according to claim 18 which additionally comprises an endo-xylanase and/or  $\beta$ -glucanase.

49. (canceled)

50. (previously presented): The granulate according to claim 18 wherein the phytase is other than a heat tolerant (thermostable) phytase.

51. (previously presented): The granulate according to claim 18 wherein the phytase is a fungal phytase.

52. (previously presented): The granulate according to claim 18 wherein the fungal phytase is derived from an *Aspergillus* or *Trichoderma* species.